

Bass  
10/762,057

#### REMARKS

The undersigned requests a personal interview with the Examiner in charge of this application to discuss the issues raised below.

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to as being too long. The abstract has been shortened.

Claim 11 was objected to for a number of informalities. The claim has been canceled.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected as being anticipated by McKay 1,928,943.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-17, 19 and 20 were rejected as being anticipated by Leventhal 3,761,973.

Claims 1-10, 16 and 18 were rejected as being anticipated by Menday 5,081,729.

McKay discloses a mattress protector with absorbent and nonabsorbent layers, as in the present invention, but with straps securing the corners to the mattress. In the present invention, the protective sheet extends around the sides to the underside of the mattress and the edge of the protective sheet has an elastic member to seal against leakage.

Leventhal has a plastic back absorption pad sheet assembly in which a stack of such assemblies are provided, the assemblies being attached together so that each one has to be torn away from the one underneath. Apparently, a new bed sheet is added when a soiled absorption pad sheet is removed. In the present invention, in the stacked modification the protective sheets are not attached to each other, and, in fact, a fresh bed sheet is between each adjacent protective sheets (see Fig. 6 with accompanying description in the specification).

Menday shows a disposable fitted birthing sheet having absorbent and nonabsorbent layers (as well as a perforated outer layer) as in the present invention but the reference does not appear to show details how the sheet is secured to the mattress. Being

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disposable, it appears that the perforated sheet along with the protective layer is all of one piece and disposable so that no reusable bed sheets appear to be involved.

In view of the excellent art cited by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to recite the details of the protective sheet with the wrap around edge extending to the underside of the mattress and the securing member along the outer edge. This does not appear to be taught or suggested in any of the art cited by the Examiner.

Claims 2, 9-15, and 19-20 have been canceled and replaced by new claims 21 and 22.

Claim 21 is an independent claim drawn to the stack of protective sheets with clean bed sheets between adjacent protective sheets with none of the protective or bed sheets being attached to each other, something which does not appear to be suggested or taught in the cited art.

Claim 22 is drawn to the method of changing bed sheets with a fresh sheet being exposed each time a protective sheet and its bed sheet are removed. No tearing or pulling apart is required. These method steps do not appear to be suggested or taught in the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims remaining clearly distinguish over the art of record and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned or Mr. Kroll if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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CERTIFICATE OF FAXING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S.  
Patent and Trademark Office, telephone number 571-273-8300 on May 7, 2006.



Leonard Belkin